

## **Health Impact News**

# **Medical Kidnapping Children in the United States: Colorado**

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# Colorado

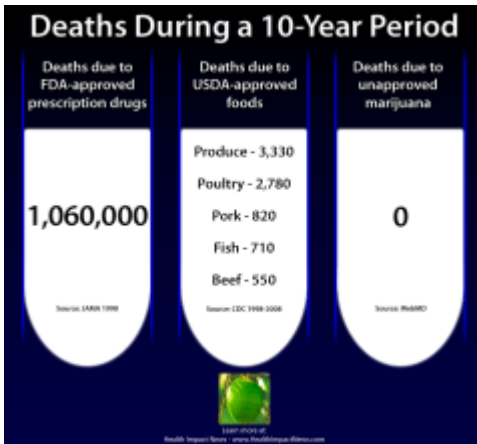


**Child Trafficking in Arkansas**

**State Senator Murdered**  
*trying to expose child trafficking*



# Mother Forced to Give Son Chemo, Even Though He is in Remission



## Mother Refuses Chemotherapy For Son

<https://youtu.be/UbLorT7Pa2A>

A Colorado mother says she is only trying to help her young son battle cancer. Now she says a doctor may turn her into the state because she is refusing chemotherapy treatments for her child, and is instead using a product related to marijuana. A petition on change.org calls on the governor, the Colorado Springs police, Department of Human Services, and The Children's Hospital to recognize cannabis as a treatment for cancer. The mother did not start it, but signed it after she and her child moved to Colorado Springs to take advantage of the state's marijuana laws.

Landon Riddle is 3 years old and his mother says he was diagnosed with leukemia. After being given just days to live he was placed on chemotherapy and radiation treatments. His mother, Sierra Riddle, says the treatments helped reduce the tumors but made her son very sick, including night terrors. The chemotherapy was stopped and Landon was given cannabis oil capsules, as she told CNN.

“I am willing to do whatever I have to do to make sure my child gets to live another day and gets to have that relief and have that quality of life he deserves,” Sierra Riddle said

Landon now looks healthier and is feeling much better, but in a letter posted online Sierra wrote, “They want to take away my son because I am refusing chemo!”

That came after she saw a Colorado doctor the day before, adding, “They do not see cannabis as a treatment for cancer. The oil is a concentrate from the marijuana plant which does not include the psychoactive ingredient THC. “Cannabis, just like morphine, is a medication,” Sierra Riddle said. “It’s not just a drug, it’s a medication, and it’s a medication that helps my son to fight his cancer.”

CBS4 Investigator Rick Sallinger attempted to reach the Colorado doctor and center which saw the child. Sallinger wanted to ask about the mother’s statement that law enforcement authorities would be contacted if chemotherapy is not continued. So far he hasn’t gotten a response.

Video no longer available.

One year ago, 3-year-old Landon Riddle was diagnosed with leukemia. Under doctors’ orders, his mother Sierra Riddle

began treatment for her young son: aggressive chemotherapy and radiation.

But while still living in Utah, Sierra watched her little boy become violently ill from the chemotherapy — Landon suffered nerve-damage in his legs, nausea that led to vomiting dozens of times a day, intense pain and at one point went 25 days without eating following the treatment, according to CNN.

“Around the clock, he was usually on liquid morphine, Ativan, Promethexane,” Sierra told CNN back in July. “And it just really didn’t seem to be helping.”

Feeling like her family “didn’t have anything left to lose” she looked into medical marijuana treatment. She moved her family to Colorado Springs, Colo. to benefit from the state’s marijuana laws and started to give Landon liquid forms of both Cannabidiol, or CBD, and Tetrahydrocannabinol, also known as THC.

“Within four weeks we could see the improvement,” Sierra told KRDO.

Users of medical marijuana have said that THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana that is associated with the “high” sensation, can also be an effective pain killer as well as inhibit feelings of nausea.

And research from a pair of scientists at California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco suggests that CBD, the non-toxic, non-psychoactive compound found in the cannabis plant, could actually stop metastasis in many kinds of aggressive cancer.

Sierra swapped chemotherapy for cannabis therapy and has seen her son return to his old energetic self and his cancer go into remission. Her decision to use medical marijuana as treatment for her son's cancer has raised some eyebrows in the traditional medical community — so much so, that one Colorado doctor reported Sierra to Human Services for refusing chemotherapy for Landon.

“They are not only forcing me to do something against my will as a parent, they are forcing me to make my child sick,” Riddle said to CBS4.

## Update 10/5/2013



### [Offer Hope for Landon Facebook Page](#)

I apologize that it has taken me a couple of days to get this update out to everyone. I want to thank each of you that have written to us on FB, called, and sent us texts and love. Your support means more than we can ever express.

It's taken me a couple of days to think through everything and process all that has occurred. I arrived here in CO late Tuesday afternoon and it has been constant issues since the plane touched down. Bless Sierra's heart, the water pump in

her car went out, the entire floor of her living space flooded with a water leak, Landon has really bad allergies that are making him cranky and not feeling good, and the cherry on the cake, meeting with CPS and the doctors.

The meeting with CPS and the doctors went better than we expected in that CPS was amazing, supportive and very professional. The team that they have here does an amazing job and we could tell from the beginning that they no more wanted to be involved in this than we did. However, they have no choice, just as we seem to have no choice. They did a great job mediating the meeting between the doctors and us and we appreciate the support that they gave us and continue to give us.

The doctors however are a totally different story. One of the doctors was in the meeting and her boss was conferenced in on the phone. He was arrogant, rude, condescending and continued to remind us that he is the expert. However, it is apparent that the only thing he is an expert in is chemo. He admitted that in the 30 days that he had to review Landon's file, he never even looked at it, never reviewed how Landon had done through the previous chemo treatment, and could not report anything specific to Landon. All he did was spout the numbers and the data of leukemia and chemo. He was not even interested in hearing how Landon was doing, how he is responding to the cannabis treatment and the special diet. He did not care AT ALL nor even asked any questions on how Landon was doing. He was not interested in whether the treatment Landon is currently is on is working, all he cared about was that Landon is not on chemo.

We agreed to go and talk to the doctor that was in the room, which by the way has only seen Landon one time before this, yet she also seems to be an 'expert' on him and his treatment. Which what we have come to realize is that all



the doctors do is follow big pharma's 'road map' for treatment for Landon's type of chemo. They just 'follow the road map of prescribed treatment' for his leukemia. There is nothing individualized in any of it. They report that 'most' kids do just fine, however, as we experienced, Landon is not 'most' kids and he did not do 'just fine'. The doctor in the meeting reported that they were willing to review his past treatment file and make adjustments to his treatment plan that would be more individualized to him so we agreed to meet with her the next day, which was Thursday. We were hopeful, believing that they were going to work with us. We were wrong.

Thursday we met with the doctor only to discover that the only concession they were willing to make was to cut the steroid dosage in half. That's it, no other concession. The chemo is still the exact same as the road map prescribes. We were in shock and as the day wore on, the reality set in hard and fast.

We have no choice. Without an oncologist to testify in court that there are other options to treat cancer besides chemo, we will lose. Our attorney stated it, other doctors have stated it, end of story. We have no choice but to put Landon through more chemo until we can find an oncologist that is brave enough to stand up for what is right for compassionate care for all children with cancer.

Chemo starts on Monday. To say that we are devastated is putting it lightly. To put a child through more chemo who is in remission is insane. It is child abuse. We just cannot believe it. We are all stunned. However, we have no choice. We just pray that the cannabis will protect him from further damage and side effects.

CNN has been here filming us through all of this and they

have been amazing support. We will continue to fight for awareness that there are other options besides poisoning your body. We will continue to fight to advocate for all the children with cancer. We will continue to fight the fight for all children and for Landon, who cannot fight for themselves.

~Grammy Wendy~

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In this 10 minute video below produced by PBS a few years ago, you can learn about some of this medical research on marijuana conducted at the University of California in San Diego. You can also hear how marijuana helped one woman become seizure free when all other drugs failed. When PBS interviewed a doctor who is against marijuana, his main complaint was that marijuana was not tested and approved by the FDA. He correctly observed that the natural herb contains more than 60 active components that have never been tested in isolation, which is how drugs are produced and patented.

PBS also interviewed an Oncology physician who has studied marijuana and states that it contains: “anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and probably anti-cancer compounds in it.” He prescribes marijuana for his cancer patients for “their loss of appetite, nausea, pain, depression, and insomnia.” He says this one drug, marijuana, can replace 5 prescription drugs.

The video by PBS will also show that although the pharmaceutical industry is trying to convince people marijuana is “untested” or even dangerous, major pharmaceutical companies have already filed many patents on synthetic versions of the Cannabinoids found in

marijuana for a variety of diseases, including cancer.

<https://youtu.be/F2Vz7DGcCy8>

# Boy Removed from Family - Father Jailed Over Lyme Disease Disagreement



Max with his mother. Photo supplied by family.

**UPDATE 12/5/2014**

The family has updated their situation on their [Facebook Page](#).

by **Christina England**  
**Health Impact News**

At this time of year, most families are looking forward to the festive season and preparing for Christmas. However, for

one family, Christmas is the last thing on their minds. In the space of just a few months, they report how their lives have been torn apart by Child Protective Services (CPS).

Greg and Jasmine Eckenrode's story began in July 2014, when they took their fifteen year old son Max, who suffers from Lyme disease, to Denver Hospital in Colorado, as he was suffering from severe stomach cramps and vomiting.

Max's father, Greg, told Health Impact News that Max had been a sickly child from as far back as he could remember. He stated:

*From a small child Max exhibited issues that didn't make sense to me. He would want to ride in the grocery cart after a short time in the store. He wouldn't carry a bag into the house. I thought he was being lazy. But we have since learned that he was tired.*

*Max would go for a bike ride with his friends and would call from a mile away for us to pick him up because he couldn't ride back.*

*I coached him in baseball and bowling. He would suddenly sit down on the bench for no reason, frustrating me. He won the state bowling tournament in his first year of bowling. A few months later he was in a wheelchair because of severe leg pain. Doctors could find nothing wrong. MRI showed nothing.*

*We tried putting Max into a gifted school that fall. We were trying to get accommodations for him and his wheelchair when they had a lockdown drill. Police came into the school like someone attacking the school. The kids were frightened. Max's anxiety from that caused him to collapse. He became*

*bedbound. We tried again in early January but he still couldn't function.*

*At the end of January he became sick with a fever and nausea. We took him to the hospital and they found that he had tachycardia. He was transferred to the same hospital that we went to in July where he was found to have POTS (Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome).*

## **Lyme Disease Diagnosis**

According to Greg, there are nine people in his family who suffer from Lyme disease, an illness causing joint pains, neurological problems, paralysis, numbness or weakness in the limbs, heart problems and severe fatigue.

Greg told Health Impact News that:

*In 2012, my health was also slipping. I had stents put in, in 2011 because of a 99% blockage of a coronary artery, two months after being diagnosed with glaucoma. I was not having a good year.*

*In October, I completely collapsed, suffering from massive pain in my joints, leg pain, headaches, weakness, brain fog that was almost like Alzheimers or dementia. I was having the same issues as Max. I was completely disabled.*

*I saw a host of doctors who could figure out nothing. It wasn't until my wife kept researching that we got a clue that it could be Lyme. We found two different doctors that treated Lyme. I went to one and took Max to the other. We were both tested positive.*

## Disagreement with Doctors – Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy Label

However, despite having a confirmed diagnosis for Lyme disease, plus other life-threatening illnesses, the doctors treating Max for his stomach problems allegedly believed Max to be far more healthy than was being described.

Without having a full set of medical records, the physician in charge of Max's case allegedly decided that Max was not as ill as his parents were saying and instead they were over-medicating him. Without vital reports and lacking the information required, according to Max's parents, the "ill-informed physician" reported the family to Child Protective Services (CPS), portraying Mrs. Eckenrode as a mother suffering from Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy (MSBP).

## Father Arrested and Put in Prison



Max with his father Greg. Photo from Denver Family Services return Max Summers to his family [Facebook Page](#).



Not knowing there was a problem, however, Jasmine and Max reportedly had gone to stay with friends in California while Greg remained at home to search for a more suitable home for the family.

After compiling their reports, CPS allegedly went to the family home, only to find that Max and his mother were not there. Concerned that the family had left the premises to avoid further involvement, CPS allegedly claimed custody of Max and issued warrants for the pair to be detained.

In court a few days later, Greg reports how he became confused with brain fog, a symptom of Lyme disease, and was unable to tell the court where his family was residing. This allegedly resulted in him being sentenced to 180 days in prison, for being in contempt of court.

Greg told Health Impact News:

*I have never been in trouble in my life. I never dreamed I would be in jail. I was allowed to call my office before I left the courtroom. I let my boss know what had happened.*

*In jail, I was put in the general population, but it took days to get my medication. My most critical medication didn't get to me until day 8. I was dying in there. I have a strict diet because of my illness. They never did anything to address it, even though I filed multiple grievances. My meds are strictly scheduled and they routinely missed my schedule. My health slipped backwards at least a year during the 3 weeks I was there.*

## Doctors and Court Records Document Lyme Disease Diagnosis

In a statement allegedly presented to the courts by the Denver Department of Human Services (DDHS), as reported to Health Impact News by the parents, they allegedly stated:

*“Ms. Eckenrode did furnish a few medical records and a packet of internet publications about the many diagnoses and syndromes that Max allegedly has. She refused to sign releases so more extensive medical records could be obtained. The undersigned caseworker was able to contact a doctor who is claimed to be Max’s primary care physician. This doctor did say that Max, as well as Ms. Eckenrode, have Lyme disease.”*

In fact, Max’s doctor had not only confirmed that Max was suffering from Lyme disease, but according to Max’s parents, he also stated that he suffered from a range of other life-threatening disorders. In 2013, he allegedly wrote:

*“Max is a patient of mine being treated for Chronic Lyme Borreliosis and comorbid infections as well as dysautonomia, endocrinopathies and toxic encephalopathy.*

*Max is also being treated by a pediatric cardiologist for Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome secondary to his chronic inflammatory condition. Symptomatic treatment includes oxygen therapy, IV saline, fludrocortisone, physical therapy, beta blockers, and a mechanical wheelchair for mobility and transport.”*

His report, allegedly written in June 2013, was a whole year before Mrs. Eckenrode was accused of MSBP. This doctor report allegedly completely confirmed the family's story.

## **Colorado DDHS Takes Custody of Max Over Medical Disagreement**

However, despite this report by the family's doctor, and several other reports allegedly confirming Max's diagnosis of Lyme Disease, the parents claim that DDHS made the following statement to justify taking custody of their son:

*“The consulting physician for DDHS has reviewed the limited medical records made available and has expressed serious concern over Max’s psychological condition, seclusion, and possible medical mistreatment.”*

According to Greg, the situation has left him homeless and on the streets after he lost his job and had all of his medical records and credit/debit cards subpoenaed by CPS. He told Health Impact News that his son currently resides with his sister and is without any appropriate medical care or financial support from the State of Colorado, who retains legal custody.

## **Terrified Mother Goes into Hiding**

Greg also told Health Impact News that his wife, terrified of being jailed herself, has gone into hiding.

Greg had this to say on their [Facebook Page](#) just a few days ago:

*“Our situation just keeps getting worse. Unemployment has been denied because I was thrown in jail. So being homeless just got worse. We had hoped to get into low income housing this week, but can’t even afford that. CPS still hasn’t done anything for Max. He is essentially trapped in our daughter’s basement with no support being given to our daughter or Max. We used some of our limited funds to drop off food for Thanksgiving. Still can’t see him.”*

They have allegedly been left fighting for the return of their son and need all the help they can get.

## **The Eckenrode Family Needs Help!**

There is a hearing scheduled for Max on December 5th. Here is the information according to the [Facebook Page](#), and several have already said they plan to show up and support the family:

*Max’s hearing is on Friday, Dec 5th at 10am.*

*The address is 520 West Colfax Ave, Rm 125, Denver, CO.*

The family has also requested that others with experience in Lyme Disease should contact the Judge and Guardian ad Litem (it is too late to write letters before tomorrow’s hearing, so phone numbers are supplied):

*Writing letters to the Magistrate & Guardian ad Litem will be a huge help for Max. Your letter can just be in support or if you have Lyme some testimony on the nature of the disease. Throw in an informational article if you can.*

*The Honorable Howard V. Bartlett  
Denver Juvenile Court  
520 West Colfax, Room 125  
Denver, CO 80204  
720-337-0605*

*Guardian Ad Litem Zak Sloan  
1325 S Colorado Blvd, #701  
Denver, CO 80222  
Phone number 303-692-1165*

Also please visit the [Denver Family Services return Max Summers to his family Facebook Page](#) to offer support, and spread this story to as many people as possible.

**[Huffington Post](#) has also covered this story:**

**[Jailed for Lyme Disease. Really? Really.](#)**

## **Lyme Disease Information**

For more information on Lyme disease and the controversy surrounding this, please go to the following links:

[Success Treating Lyme Disease Naturally Without Antibiotic Drugs](#)

[CDC Finally Acknowledges Real Lyme Disease Rates to Create Market for New Vaccine](#)

[Genetic Factor Emerges as Key to Onset of Lyme Arthritis](#)

[Scientists step up hunt for bacterial genes tied to Lyme disease](#)

For cases and information on Lyme disease and false accusations of Munchhausen Syndrome by Proxy, please read:

[Petra Heller](#)

[Justina Pelletier Case Emblematic of Difficulties Faced by Children with Rare Diseases](#)

[Munchausen's syndrome by proxy and Lyme disease: Medical misogyny or diagnostic mystery?](#)

[Parents and Carers Against Medical Injustice](#)

# Colorado Mom Loses Medically Kidnapped Son's Childhood - Now Reveals State Corruption



Lisa Mitchell at a visit with Samuel, age 14 in this photo. The marks on his forehead and hand are from restraints used on him. Lisa reports that he frequently showed bruises and scabs from the abuse and restraints in state care. Source: Mitchell family.

Lisa was interviewed by Tammi Stefano on the National Safe Child Show:

<https://youtu.be/o4Dp3dRoTo8>

# Colorado Mom Loses Medically Kidnapped Son's Childhood – Now Reveals State Corruption

by Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff

When 6 year old Samuel Mitchell had difficulties in school stemming from a brain injury at birth, his mother sought help. Eventually, Child Protective Services of Colorado decided that they could do a better job of caring for Samuel, and they seized him from his family and locked him away in a facility where they turned him into a medical guinea pig. He spent years being heavily drugged, and when his mother and the ACLU investigated and exposed some of the corruption, there was retaliation. Now, Samuel is 18, falsely imprisoned for charges with no evidence that a crime actually occurred, and his mother Lisa Mitchell is working to unravel and expose the years of harm done to her son.

This family's story is just the tip of the iceberg of the horrific drugging of foster children and children who are hidden away in America's institutions and mental health facilities. Samuel has a mother who is willing to fight for him and investigate the system to expose and change the nightmare life that children in his situation face, and he is still trapped in the system. How many children like him have no one to speak up for them?

*But this is a people plundered and looted, all of them trapped in pits or hidden away in prisons.*

*They have become plunder, with no one to rescue them; they have been made loot, with no one to say, 'Send them back.'*



*Which of you will listen to this or pay close attention in time to come? Isaiah 42:22-23 (NIV Bible)*

Lisa Mitchell and her son hope that you will pay attention.

## **Birth Trauma and Following the Vaccine Schedule – Health Problems Emerge**

Samuel was born in Texas in 1997 and is the youngest of 4 children. Other than a bout with a giardia infection and medication to treat that, Lisa's pregnancy was normal. However, during the birth, Samuel's heart rate indicated signs of trouble. After a vacuum extractor was used, he was born blue with the cord around his neck twice. Having the umbilical cord around the baby's neck is a fairly common, and usually harmless, occurrence in birth, but in Samuel's case, he suffered some oxygen deprivation and brain injury. Numerous doctors later linked the birth trauma to his intellectual impairment.

He was fully vaccinated according to recommended pediatric vaccine schedule.

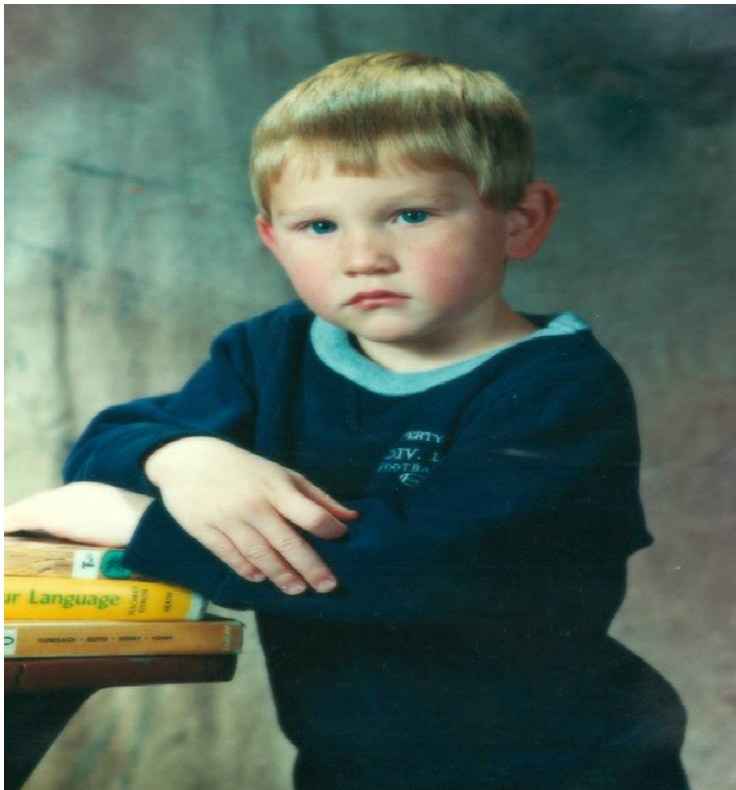
He was happy as a baby. By age 2, Samuel showed signs of cognitive and emotional difficulties. When he was 3, Lisa met with a therapist about concerns for her son.

## **Heavy Psych Drugs Given at Age 6**

When Samuel was 6 years old and in school, it became apparent that Samuel needed help. He was having difficulty concentrating and was having angry outbursts. Lisa was shocked when the medical professionals she consulted

prescribed 6 psychotropic drugs in one sitting. However, she reports that she was scared for her son, so she complied.

*I did not know then, that was going to change my son's life for the next 12 years.*



Samuel Mitchell at age 6, already on 6 psychotropic medications. Source: Mitchell family.

Before he was 7 years old, psychiatrists had already

diagnosed him with bipolar disorder, anxiety, and ADHD, and he began more than a decade of ever changing dosages and doctors' experimentation with heavy-duty psychotropic medications. Medical records show that Samuel was on 5 to 6 medications at a time from that point on.

## **Family Moves to Colorado in Search of Better Care**

Within 6 months of Samuel beginning the medications, Lisa reports that her son became “delusional, violent, aggressive, and suicidal.” At the time, Lisa did not connect the escalation of symptoms to the drugs, but believed that he was ill and needed more help.

Doctors treated Samuel with staggering cocktails of drugs, but his problems did not go away. They got worse. He qualified for Social Security Disability and went on Medicaid. His IQ has been tested several times reflecting a score of around 70, indicating borderline intelligence.

In 2005, Lisa packed up her family and moved to Colorado in order to be close to a children's residential treatment program that she hoped would help Samuel. She and the children's father had divorced in 2000, and he remained in Texas. Lisa left behind a beautiful home, but she had high hopes that Samuel would be helped in the new setting.

When the new treatment center “doped up” her son even more, Lisa questioned the doctors, asking why so many drugs were being given, but she says that her concerns were dismissed by “arrogant doctors.”

## **Child Protective Services Gets Involved**

Things escalated one day in 2007. A therapist was transporting Samuel in her car for a routine visit home with his family. He reportedly became scared and had a meltdown in the front seat. The therapist put him in a restraint. During the process, he scratched her car. Lisa reports that the police came to the scene and charged her 10 year old intellectually challenged boy with 3rd degree assault.

Based on that incident, a Child Protective Services case worker from the Department of Human Services (DHS) got involved and appointed a GAL. Charges against Samuel were later dropped due to findings of his incompetency. But DHS already had a foot in the door, and as many families have reported to Health Impact News, once the state agency gets involved in a family, it is hard to get them out of their lives.

## **No Legitimate Reason for State to Seize Samuel, But They Did**

Later that year, DHS seized Samuel from his family, for no other reason than that they believed they could do a better a job of caring for him.

Weld County DHS also seized Samuel's Social Security benefits. During the exchange of discovery in their federal lawsuit in 2015, Lisa learned that DHS had been submitting false information to the Social Security Administration for 8 years, stating that Lisa, as Samuel's legal representative, approved of all such information. She did not even know about it.

In 2010 DHS filed a Dependency and Neglect order for Samuel without any accusations of abuse or neglect. Their

rationale presented to the court was that, by DHS having custody, the state of Colorado could pay for his care. Lisa argued that Medicaid was already paying for his care, but to no avail. They seized Samuel without any legal grounds and placed him in a mental health facility. DHS reportedly used Samuel's SSI benefits to abuse, neglect, and over-drug him for the next 8 years.

According to one court document:

*The only reason why the Dependency and Neglect Action was initiated in this case was to provide Samuel with needed mental health treatment; there was no triggering event of abuse and neglect that Lisa allegedly committed.*

According to Colorado's Child Mental Health Treatment Act, children with mental health needs whose parents cannot afford their treatment must be provided mental health services, without the need to remove the children from the home. An earlier version of the law was in place at the time Samuel was taken, but this aspect was the same then as it is now.

Samuel's removal from his home violated that act. It is clear to his mother that the state never should have seized Samuel from his family, but they did. The other children remained in the home. Lisa Mitchell has been fighting to get Samuel back ever since.

At no time since did Lisa ever lose her parental rights on paper, but in reality, she may as well have, because things happened to her son that she had no control over. She says that she could not protect him and she could not stop the

drugging.

Samuel was housed in multiple facilities from 2007 to 2009. Then he was moved to a facility that was a 280 mile round trip drive away from their home. Despite the financial hardship, Lisa made the long drive almost every weekend from 2009 to 2015 in order to be able to visit her son.

## Medical Guinea Pig

It has only been in recent years that Lisa has been able to put pieces together about what happened to her son since the state of Colorado seized him, and it is a very ugly tale of fraud, kickbacks to doctors, abuse, and experimentation, all at the expense of her son and others who are trapped in the system.



Samuel with his mom – happy at home before all the drugging started. Source: Mitchell family

Between 2003 and 2014, between the various psychiatrists

and treatment facilities, Samuel has been prescribed more than 20 different drugs, including heavy psychotropics and antidepressants. Medical records include Seroquel, Zoloft, Wellbutrin, Adderall, Ritalin, Abilify, Tenex, Concerta, Lexapro, Clonidine, Trileptal, Valium, Strattera, Lithium, Risperdal, Topomax, Inderal, Ativan, Depakote, Celexa, Quetiapine, and Prozac. At most times, he was on 5 to 6 of these at one time, with ever-changing dosages and combinations. Most of these medications were prescribed to Samuel without Lisa's informed consent.

Prozac is the only medication [approved by the FDA](#) for treating depression in children. All other medications are used off-label for that purpose. Yet, the [New York Times](#) reports that the makers of the drug, Eli Lilly, has faced multiple lawsuits dating back to 1990 for "gross negligence" for failure to adequately warn doctors that Prozac "may sometimes set off aggressive, violent or suicidal behavior." It was Prozac that was the drug that prompted the first of the black box warning labels on psychotropic drugs for children and adolescents.

In 2003, the FDA began to alert doctors that children and teens taking an SSRI might be prone to thoughts of suicide. It added new warnings in 2004 and mandated that SSRIs carry a "black box" warning—so called because it is prominently placed in a black box on the label.

In fact, the majority of the mind-altering drugs that Samuel was prescribed include black box warning labels by the FDA – the strongest warning that is issued by the organization.

According to Lisa:

*It's amazing that my child is still alive! He was a*

*pharmaceutical guinea pig.*

As we have [previously reported](#) here at Health Impact News, there are federal laws in place that allow the State to take custody of a child for purposes of using that child in drug experiments. Once a ward of the State, the child's medical expenses are fully covered and no parental or insurance approval is needed. Therefore, even experimental drugs not yet approved by the FDA can be administered.

See:

## [Medical Kidnapping in the U.S. – Kidnapping Children for Drug Trials](#)

## **All Foster Children in Colorado Heavily Drugged**

The Denver Post investigated the drugging of foster children, like Samuel, in a series in 2012. They found that:

*Foster kids in 2012 were prescribed anti-psychotics at 12 times the rate of other children on government insurance, which has raised alarms that the drugs are overprescribed to a vulnerable group. [Source](#).*

Further:

*High rates of psychotropic drug use among poor and foster children didn't occur by mistake, government investigators say. Court documents filed in health care false-claims*



*lawsuits show that drug companies closely tracked the prescribing habits of doctors in the Medicaid program, which pays the health care of the poor, including foster children.*

*In Colorado, nine of the top 10 most prescribed drugs for foster children in the Medicaid program are psychotropics, according to the most recently available data. In contrast, for non-foster children, only one psychotropic is among the top 10 most prescribed drugs in Medicaid. [Source](#).*

Colorado is certainly not alone in this. All around the country, children in state care are much more likely to be prescribed these dangerous drugs.

See:

**[Foster Care Abuse: Drugging Children Against Their Will](#)**

**[California's Crisis: 1 Out of Every 4 Children in California's Foster Care Prescribed Powerful Psychiatric Drugs](#)**

**[Kids in Foster Care 3 Times As Likely To Get Psych Drugs](#)**

**["You're worth a lot of money" – Prescribing Psychotropic Drugs is Big Money for Doctors](#)**

[Whistleblowers](#) have exposed the corrupt marketing tactics and illegal kickback schemes used by major pharmaceutical companies to target pediatric doctors and psychiatrists to

prescribe the antidepressants and psychotropic drugs to children for off-label uses. While it is not illegal for doctors to prescribe drugs off-label, it is illegal for the drug companies to market them for off-label use. Safety and effectiveness studies are not done on medications for off-label use, so the patients prescribed these drugs essentially become guinea pigs for doctors to experiment.

Some doctors do more of this experimentation than others, and the payoffs can be huge. Dr. John T. Hardy, an adolescent and child psychiatrist, has treated Samuel Mitchell many times over the years, and has prescribed many dangerous drugs to him.

According to [Dollars for Docs](#), a Propublica database where users can search to find how much money a doctor has been paid by pharmaceutical companies, Dr. Hardy is the top doctor in his specialty in the state of Colorado for payouts from drug companies. In a 16 month period in 2013–2015, he was paid more than \$280,000 by pharmaceutical companies.

\$110K of that was from the makers of Abilify, a drug that is linked to hypersexuality, compulsive gambling, and other obsessive compulsive behavior. There have been numerous [lawsuits](#) filed against Otsuka and Bristol-Myers over the psychotropic drug. Dr. Hardy received large sums of money from the manufacturer, primarily for promotional speaking, travel, and lodging.

When children in foster care are prescribed medications, the cost is billed to Medicaid. Thus, taxpayers foot the bill for some very expensive drugs, drugs which are not even supposed to be prescribed to children. Over the years, Samuel took between 10 mg. a day of Abilify up to 2 doses of 20 mg. per day. According to [TrueMedCost.com](#), Abilify ranges from \$717 for a 30 day supply of 10 mg tablets up to

greater than \$2400 for a month's supply of 2 20 mg tablets per day. The drug is reportedly one of the top drugs that psychiatrists in Colorado prescribe to children in foster care.

This is just one of the drugs that Samuel was prescribed while he was in DSS custody. Lisa Mitchell wants to know how much money was made by Dr. Hardy and others for prescribing these drugs to her son. She says that her son's Guardian ad Litem (GAL) once told Samuel:

*You're worth a lot of money.*

## **Sexually Abused in the Residential Facilities**

The drugging was only part of the horrors that Samuel faced while he was warehoused in [El Pueblo Boys and Girls Ranch](#) from 2009 to 2015. Lisa reports that, on many occasions, Samuel had bruises, scabs, and other marks on his body from restraints used on him at the facility. She also reports that the controversial and dangerous "prone restraint" technique was used on her son. [Prone restraint](#) has been associated with a number of [deaths](#), and is banned in Colorado with disabled children.

Lisa reports that people at the facility sat on Samuel, kicked him in the groin, choked him, battered and bruised him all over his body – that was just in 2012. He was bitten and assaulted numerous times by other children in the facility.

*He was a mess, and nobody cared but me.*



Samuel with his mom at a visit. He was 12. Lisa says that the medications caused him to gain weight. Source: Mitchell family.

Samuel was allegedly sexually assaulted under state care. Lisa said that, at one point his urine was orange, his scrotum was purple, and he was in pain before they got around to taking him for medical treatment. He was tested annually for several years for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, yet Lisa still has not been able to get any records showing why he was tested. His mother questions whether or not this was Medicaid fraud (since Medicaid was billed for the tests), or if he actually has a sexually transmitted disease but they won't tell her. To date, Lisa still does not know the answer to this question.

What she does know is that, at age 12, Samuel disclosed that he had sex with an older female who allegedly pursued him two years prior. That would have been at the previous

residential facility when he was just 10 years old. There was never an investigation, and no one was ever charged.

Medical reports state that Samuel sometimes displayed anger issues. When he was 10, a therapist noted:

*Samuel also gets easily upset when he feels he will never go home, or may have to go to a foster home. Samuel's anger can result in verbal threats, rages, running away and physical acting out.*

One report when he was 14 states that he had:

*worsening behavior after he was told he cannot return home to mom ....*

What did they expect? Instead of looking at this as normal responses to being held in captivity, the solution was to drug Samuel even more.

## **Solitary Confinement Stopped By ACLU Investigation**

There were a number of times when Samuel spent time at one of the “reflection cottages,” which are drab, bare cottages where residents would spend time in solitary confinement, often for days or weeks at a time. According to Colorado law, no prisoner or patient is to be in solitary confinement for more than 2 hours at a time.

In 2013, the ACLU investigated allegations of cruel treatment

of youth in the reflection cottages, and many of the allegations were discovered to be [founded](#), based on inspections and interviews with some staff as well as former and current residents, including Samuel. The [ACLU](#) demanded that use of the cottages be suspended, based on their investigation:

*Children are forbidden to speak with others and must ask permission to use the bathroom. Children are not allowed to go outside or provided opportunity for exercise.*



The rooms in the Reflection Cottages are bare, with only a concrete slab. Bedding was usually given out at the end of the day. [Source](#).

The ACLU was able to get these solitary confinement cottages shut down, but the victory was short-lived. [El](#)

Pueblo has reopened the cottages, asserting that their use was not abusive.

## Retaliation for Exposing Corruption

It was in 2012–2013 that Lisa was able to obtain some of Samuel’s medical records and she started seeing just how drugged her son was. She hadn’t really put the pieces together before that, but when the pieces starting coming together, Lisa jumped into the middle of it, working to expose the corruption.

Whistleblowers were exposing the corruption of the drug companies targeting children with off-label use of psychotropic drugs. Lawsuits against the drug companies were being filed which exposed dangerous side-effects that had not been disclosed by the manufacturers. The Denver Post began investigating the drugging of children in foster care, and psychiatrists who were lining their pockets at the expense of these kids. The ACLU was investigating El Pueblo’s reflection cottages. All in all, it was a bad year for the mental health treatment center and psychiatrists.

That was when she says she believes that there began to be retaliation against Samuel and the rest of the kids who spoke with the ACLU and drew state scrutiny to bear on El Pueblo Treatment Center.



El Pueblo Boys and Girls Ranch Treatment Center. [Source](#).

As Lisa learned more about the dangers of the medications her son was on, she realized that all the years of Samuel being drugged by the psychiatrists never helped him, but, in fact, the drugs CAUSED the problems. She demanded that he be taken off of the drugs. She wrote letters, contacted media, and talked with legislators. She has even been able to get laws changed in Colorado.

One therapist wrote in Samuel's Medical Evaluation review that:

*He states his 'mother wants me to stop Prozac.'*

In response, the therapist recommended:

*Don't stop Prozac.*



Ironically, he also wrote that Samuel's current diagnosis was "Oppositional Defiant Disorder." Earlier that year, Lisa had written asking that he not be put on Prozac, but they did so anyway. She believes that it was out of spite.



Samuel at age 14. Note the marks on his face from restraints. This is the latest photo that Lisa has been able to take of her son, who is now 18. Source: Mitchell family.

When Samuel turned 16 in June 2013, the jurisdiction for DHS to hold him ended, but it took Lisa going to court and filing suit to get him released from their custody, custody which they never legally should have had in the first place.

But they allegedly did not want him to get out of the system. Lisa began to be afraid they were never going to let him go. Though no charges were filed against Samuel while he resided in residential treatment centers up until this time, charges suddenly began to be made against him.

Samuel began to face accusations of various charges of assault. Lisa reports that about half of those were self defense. Somehow, Samuel was persuaded to plead guilty to some of the charges. His mother says that he was lied to, that if he pleaded guilty, “they would take care of it.” Those cases are being appealed. All of the allegations occurred while Samuel was under the influence of mind-altering drugs, including the recently prescribed Prozac.

However, one bizarre charge of sexual assault remained.

## **Charges Pressed With No Evidence a Crime Actually Occurred**

Not long before Samuel would have been able to go home with his family, he was accused of raping another boy in the facility. Samuel, who had just turned 16, denies any part of it. The alleged incident was not reported until the next day after it was supposed to have occurred. The boy was taken to the hospital for a rape kit. All tests came back negative for any presence of sperm or seminal fluid. The boy reported no pain or trauma. Later, the boy reportedly said he didn’t know if he dreamed it, or made it up, or what. He didn’t remember.

Nonetheless, prosecutors proceeded with charges of felony sexual assault. In order to take the case to trial, Samuel would have to be declared “competent” to stand trial, because it is illegal to sentence someone who is incompetent to jail.

Three different experts over the years have declared him to be incompetent. He has been incompetent and on disability since 2003. Lisa says that DSS “doctor shopped” in the effort to find someone who would declare her intellectually challenged son to be competent. They found one from the

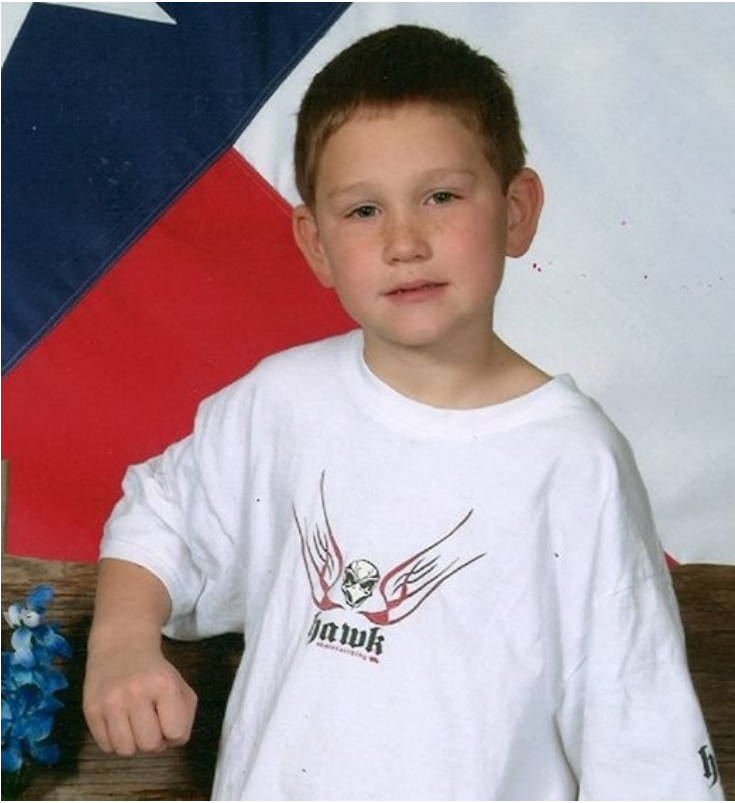
Colorado Mental Health Institute at Pueblo who somehow declared that he was competent to stand trial. (That finding has again been reversed, but not before the damage was done.)

Before the trial, Samuel's defense attorney filed a motion for the charges to be dismissed based on DNA evidence:

*I am arguing that in the interest of justice as it effects Sam's placement options that this case be dismissed now that the DNA results provide clear exculpatory evidence.*

*This is not a guaranteed outcome; this particular DA may not give up the fight without a trial even in the face of such clear evidence of Samuel's innocence.*

The charges were not dismissed, and the boy who had been drugged most of his life, had an IQ of around 70, and had been on disability for mental impairment since the age of 6, faced a trial in juvenile court.



Samuel Mitchell, drugged since age 6. Source: Mitchell family.

The prosecution's opening statement began thus:

*This is a juvenile sexual assault case with a lesser charge of sexual contact. The prosecuting attorney does not have any evidence of the charge ....*

The court found Samuel not guilty of the felony charge in

May 2015, but despite the lack of evidence that a crime even occurred, Samuel was found guilty of a misdemeanor sexual assault charge. His mother says that he cried his eyes out. She believes that the charges are retaliation for their participation in whistleblowing.

Samuel is currently in jail in his 10th month of his sentence of 0-2 years. They are appealing the verdict. If it is not overturned, Samuel will be required to register as a sex offender.

## **Finally No More Drugs – But Childhood Memories Lost**

Lisa Mitchell has vowed to keep fighting for her son. The Dependency and Neglect case, through which DHS seized custody of Samuel absent any charges of abuse or neglect, was closed in August 2015.

Samuel is finally drug-free, and has been for about a year and a half. He is still mentally impaired, but Lisa says that he is functioning better. He is somewhat depressed, simply because of where he is, but he hasn't had any discipline problems at all since he has been off of the medications. The drugs are not completely out of his system yet, but he is making progress. Lisa reports:

*He doesn't remember most of his childhood, because he was so drugged up.*

## **He Can Sense God's Presence Now**

One of the greatest outcomes to Samuel of being drug free is

his renewed faith. He prays and has been reading his Bible throughout this experience. But for many years, he told his mom that he couldn't feel God's presence. He now realizes that it was the drugs.

Since he got off of the drugs, now he says that he can feel God and sense His presence. He reassures his mother:

*I know God's going to help us, Mom.*

Lisa's voice broke as she told Health Impact News:

*They even drugged God out of my child!*

## **The Fight for Samuel Continues**

Since Samuel was declared competent to stand trial, he had the right to request his own competency testing. In August, he participated in a Neuropsychological Screening Evaluation. The examiner evaluated Samuel and examined the previous competency/incompetency findings. He found that Samuel is, in fact, incompetent. He functions on about a 5th grade level, even without being drugged.

Lisa recently filed for guardianship of Samuel, and was granted unlimited guardianship. The court deemed Samuel "incapacitated." She now has access to his medical records. She has been petitioning for years for his records, which were court ordered to have been given to her in 2012, but Lisa says they are still "hiding" some of the records. Samuel has also asked for his records, but his requests were denied as well.

Lisa vows to keep fighting for her son, and for other families. She says that many parents in similar situations blame their kids, but she now realizes that it's the drugs which account for much bad behavior.

*It's the tearing down of the American family.*

*They want you to go away.*

*They want you to give up.*

*They want to make you do whatever they want you to do.*

About corrupt social workers and corrupt psychiatrists, she says:

*You can choose to give kids fraudulent drugs, and you can commit Medicaid fraud, but you will always have people like me who won't stop till I see you in jail.*

## **How You Can Help**

There is a Facebook page set up for Samuel, called [Denied Innocence: Free Samuel Mitchell](#).

The image shows the top portion of a Facebook post. At the top, the text "Denied Innocence: Free Samuel Mitchell" is written in white on a dark blue background. Below this, the words "DRUGGED 12 YEARS" and "PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS" are displayed in large, bold, white capital letters. To the left of the text is a small profile picture of a young boy. Below the profile picture, the text "Denied Innocence. Free Samuel Mitchell" and "Community" is visible. To the right of the text, there are buttons for "Liked" and "Message". At the bottom of the post header, there are navigation tabs for "Timeline", "About", "Photos", "Likes", and "Videos".

Lisa Mitchell states several goals that she would love to see happen:

- She wants Samuel home.
- She wants the governor to overturn the case.
- She wants his records to be expunged.
- She would like for the governor to investigate the drugging of children, the alleged Medicaid fraud, and the role of psychiatrists in all of this.
- She wants to make it a felony to prescribe “off label” psychotropic drugs not approved by the FDA for pediatric use.
- The Mitchells need a good attorney to step forward to help with the appeal. They have a court-appointed attorney, but she will likely not be able to get to their case for at least a year.
- She proposes “Samuel’s Law” – which would mandate prison for state officials, including case/social workers, GALs, treatment center personnel and CEOs who abuse or fail to protect children in their care. After all, child abuse is child abuse and negligence is negligence.



Colorado's governor is John Higgenlooper. He may be reached at 303-866-2471, or contacted [here](#).

Representative Ken Summers represents the district where Lisa Mitchell currently lives. He may be reached at 303-886-2927, or contacted [here](#).

Mike Kopp is the Senator representing her district. He may be reached at 303-886-4859, or contacted [here](#).

# Premature Baby Medically Kidnapped from Loving Parents in Colorado



Baby Yael has spent her whole life in the hospital, and is now in CPS custody. Photo provided by the family.

by **Health Impact News/MedicalKidnap.com Staff**

*We just want to raise our daughter. Is that too much to ask?*

Juanita and TJ Muhl are a Colorado couple who are grieving over Yechezkela, their infant daughter nicknamed Yael, who was taken from them while still in the hospital by the State of Colorado. The parents are well-educated, and each is employed.

This is their story.

Juanita was only 24 weeks along in the pregnancy when she had to be rushed to the hospital due to severe bleeding.

Juanita was placed with a doctor with whom she had some prior issues. When the couple saw which physician was assigned to care for Juanita and the child, they requested to be moved to another hospital.

According to medical records, the physicians decided to go ahead and allow the birth of the child via caesarean section even though it was still very early for her tiny body to leave her mother's womb.

The issues began almost immediately. It seemed to Juanita that the hospital had something to hide:

*They placed me on a medical and mental health hold.  
Preventing me from seeking out her care.*

*[We] were kidnapped. When I tried to call for emergency help, they tore the phone out of the wall, and threw my cell*

*phone and broke it.*

*My husband was removed from the hospital, and told he could not see me, if he came back he would be trespassing.*

*On November 19 at 3 centimeters [dilation], they took Yael out of my stomach. By November 20, I was discharged, being found with no mental health needs, and the emergency was over.*

*On November 21, my husband took me into another hospital per my [regular] doctor. I was admitted, due to having lost most of my blood while in the other hospital, and my surgery stitches were opening. I needed 5 bags of blood.*



Tiny Yael was born at just 24 weeks. Photo provided by the family.

Yael came to this world on November 19, 2016, weighing just 1 pound, 5.5 ounces. She had to live at the hospital because of her medical fragility, and her parents faithfully drove the 60+ miles to be with her each day. They even moved into the Ronald McDonald house in order to be near their child.

According to her parents, Yael was transferred to Children's Hospital of Colorado in Aurora on February 17, 2017.

## Conflicts over Medical Treatments

The Muhls are a Messianic Jewish couple, so when the doctors wanted to provide treatment for acid reflux which entailed using non-Kosher medicines, they refused.

They also refused to allow the doctors to use other medicines which are known to cause side-effects in newborns.



Yechezkela was born as a medically-fragile micro-preemie. Photo provided by the family.

The parents told the medical team that they would consent for Yael to have any necessary immunizations, and they informed the doctors that there were Kosher vaccinations

out there that they could use.

According to the parents, Yael was given vitamin K, after which Yael had seizures for two weeks. The parents were never told whether Yael was given other shots.

The doctor wanted to give Yael anti-reflux medications, which according to TJ's research, would cause side effects in the infant. Only recently, the parents discovered that the medical records show these acid reflux medicines were not actually needed. They were ordered for an acid reflux problem, which according to the hospital's own records, went away on its own.

The medical team allegedly never told the parents this fact. Instead, the team later used the issue of her parents refusing to allow her to be given these medications to take the child into state custody.

When the parents requested that other treatments be used that would not break Kosher and FDA guidelines, the medical team reportedly would not cooperate. The medical team contacted Colorado Child Protection Services, and there was a flurry of activity to attempt to put the child in the care of the state.



Juanita wants to protect Baby Yael. Photo provided by the family.

## **Medical Complications**

Baby Yael was having more complications due to her premature birth. She was diagnosed with ROP (retinopathy



of prematurity) and had to have surgical procedures done on her tiny eyes. These did not work, so Yael became blind. It has been medically shown that oxygen given to a newborn can cause ROP.

TJ and Juanita continued to research options for their baby. According to Juanita:

*We already had her registered with Maryland school for the blind. We had contacted an ophthalmologist from the oldest eye institute in the country, and started joining support groups for parents like us.*

On March 3, Juanita and TJ discovered that there was a PVL brain cyst in Yael's tiny brain. Periventricular leukomalacia (PVL) is a common ischemic brain injury in premature babies. This further complicated Yael's medical prognosis because usually this injury leads to cerebral palsy.

Juanita Muhl asked the doctors about this, and she said that they did not have much to tell her about it. She wanted to know: what were they hiding?



TJ holds his baby girl. Photo provided by the family.

On March 5, the Colorado Department of Human Services was granted an emergency custody order to seize Yael. The

parents were removed from Yael's hospital. On that same day, the hospital was granted a court order to give Yael the medicines for acid reflux — which were allegedly not even necessary according to the hospital's own records.

By May 19, the Muhls discovered that the foster family could stay at the hospital with Yael, but her natural parents were no longer allowed to stay by her side.

## **Need for Surgery Magically Disappears**

The next development was that Yael had some heart defects and needed surgery. There was much discussion that it had to be done immediately.

Yael's true biological parents were approached about this, and indicated that they would indeed allow the surgery, but it could not be done at the hospital in Aurora. A few days later, Juanita and TJ received the word that Yael would not need the surgery until much later in her young life.



Urgent heart surgery no longer needed after parents arrange for a different hospital to perform the surgery. Photo provided by the family.

Supporters are asking if the hospital administration and staff are trying to cover for making mistakes with this baby?

Currently, all is relatively quiet on this case; however, Baby Yael is still not with her parents. There is another court appearance set for July 13.

The family has a great emotional support system from their community. Juanita and TJ are active volunteers in their community, and many are praying for Yael. They have had one fundraiser, and are hoping to raise enough money to hire a lawyer to help them in this fight.

There is a recent improvement in Yael's condition. Her mother posted on Yael's Facebook page on Tuesday, June 13th:

*They did 5 surgeries for ROP and they said that she could not see even after the five surgeries but today she was showing the abilities to see.*

## How You Can Help

[Yechezkela](#) is the Facebook page that has been set up so that supporters can follow Baby Yael's story.



Governor John Hickenlooper may be reached at (303) 866-2471, or contacted [here](#).

Michael Merrifield is the state Senator for the Muhl's district. He may be reached at (303) 866-6364, or contacted [here](#).

Tony Exum, Sr. is the Representative for the family's district. He may be reached at (303) 866-3069, or contacted [here](#)

# Colorado Mom Accused of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Child's Death Has Conviction Thrown out After 13 Years



Krystal Voss. Photo courtesy of [Westworld](#).

## Health Impact News Editor Comments

Continuing the trend in courts recently, another victim of Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS), a mom in Colorado, had her conviction tossed out and the judge ordered a new trial.

The reason is because the defense never brought up

scientific evidence challenging SBS, and that signs of SBS do not guarantee guilt.

This trend by judges all across the U.S. is causing groups like the American Bar Association to train attorneys on how to fight SBS convictions. See:

### **[Attorneys Being Trained to Fight Bogus Child Abuse Charges used in Medical Kidnappings](#)**

### **[Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts Opens the Legal Door to Retry All Shaken Baby Syndrome Convictions](#)**

This is one case where law and the courts are bringing to the light the truth that SBS is bogus science, and trumping the power of doctors who can give authority to Child Protective Services to remove a child from a home for “abuse” based simply on examining x-rays of an injury.

As we have previously reported here on MedicalKidnap.com, such is the power of doctors to remove children from their homes, that a new Pediatric sub-specialty was developed in 2009 called “Child Abuse Specialist.” The sole purpose of these doctors is to remove children from their homes, and their job depends on it. See:

### **[Are New Pediatric “Child Abuse Specialists” Causing an Increase in Medical Kidnappings?](#)**

### **[Child Abuse Pediatricians: An “Ethically Bankrupt” Profession that Destroys Families](#)**

These specialists often recommend children be removed



from homes based on x-rays, and never even talk to the parents, the child, or the family pediatrician who regularly sees the family. If the injury is severe enough, criminal charges will be filed against the parents, and convictions typically have been based almost solely on the testimony of these Child Abuse Specialists.

Judges around the country, however, are waking up to the fact that there is contradictory evidence in all of these cases, and if that evidence is not present in the conviction of a parent or care-giver, in most cases the conviction will be overturned. And most of the time, the district attorney will not even bother to pursue starting a new case.

## Krystal Voss's "Shaken Baby" Conviction Finally Tossed

by [Alan Prendergast](#)  
[Westworld](#)

Excerpts:

An Alamosa judge has ordered a new trial in the case of Krystal Voss, who was convicted in 2004 of child abuse in the death of her nineteen-month-old son and sentenced to twenty years in prison. The reversal is another setback for advocates of "shaken baby syndrome," a diagnosis that's been used in court to prosecute hundreds of caregivers for abuse over the past three decades but has been attacked by skeptics as junk science.

In a 139-page opinion dated August 7, Alamosa District Court Judge Pattie Swift ruled that Voss's conviction should be thrown out because her attorneys at trial failed to summon

any medical experts to challenge the prosecution's claim that Kyran Gaston-Voss's death was the result of a violent shaking. The decision comes after new testimony by nationally recognized pediatric specialists that the toddler's injuries, including a devastating brain injury, could have been caused by an accidental fall.

On January 31, 2003, Voss showed up in an Alamosa hospital emergency room with Kyran, who was limp and unresponsive. She explained that earlier that afternoon she'd left Kyran in the care of a friend visiting from Denver, Patrick Ramirez, while she went to work at a local health-food store. About an hour after arriving at work, she'd gotten a phone call from Ramirez, telling her to come home because something was wrong with Kyran.

Ramirez told her he'd been playing outside with the boy on his shoulders. He'd stumbled. Kyran fell, and the boy might have hit his head on the ground. Ramirez fell on top of him. Kyran started hollering, then seemed dizzy and unable to stand.

The emergency-room doctor noted bruises on the child's abdomen and signs of an acute subdural hematoma — a bleeding inside the skull. Kyran was soon flown to the intensive-care unit at Children's Hospital in Denver, while the investigation into how he suffered such a severe head injury lurched into overdrive. After being assured by the child-abuse team at Children's that the head trauma was more likely a case of shaking than a fall, one police investigator accused Ramirez of making up his story in order to protect Voss, with whom he'd had a sexual relationship; the investigator also obtained a "confession" from a sleep-deprived Voss that she might have briefly shaken Kyran in frustration the night before she left him with Ramirez.

At trial, the prosecution's medical expert asserted that the fatal injuries were consistent with a violent shaking. The jury took only six hours to deliver its verdict: guilty of knowing and reckless child abuse resulting in death.

Yet the basic premises behind shaken-baby prosecutions — for example, that baby-shaking produces a unique constellation of symptoms, distinct from a short fall — have been under attack for some time, and were even back when Voss went to trial. Dr. Robert Bux, the coroner who conducted the autopsy on Kyran, told Westword in 2003 that he didn't believe in shaken-baby syndrome and found it "difficult to swallow the concept." Yet the defense never called him as a witness to refute the prosecution's medical expert.

Voss, [has] already served thirteen years of her now-vacated twenty-year sentence.

Read the [full article at Westword.com](#)

# People Actually Trying to Stop Child Trafficking are Often Murdered - The CENSORED Linda Collins-Smith Story



How would you feel if you were fighting for the custody of your granddaughter after your daughter was killed, and before you had a chance to be heard in court about why you, as the grandparents, were in the best position to raise her, and then you saw that your granddaughter had already been adopted out to another family? One person who tried to expose this corruption is former Arkansas State Senator Linda Collins-Smith, who can no longer talk about this topic today because she was murdered.

by **Brian Shilhavy**  
**Editor, Health Impact News**

In 2019 we interviewed Kathy Hall on KFNX Talk Radio out of Phoenix regarding the kidnapping of her granddaughter

after her daughter was killed in Arkansas. She was close friends with Arkansas State Senator Linda Collins-Smith, who was working on her case and attempting to help her get custody of her granddaughter.

But after returning to Arkansas after a trip to Arizona, Arkansas State Senator Linda Collins-Smith was murdered.

Here is the episode:

<https://youtu.be/oCcx18RJIoo>

This became a huge national story, and late last year ABC's 20/20 ran a documentary on the Linda Collins-Smith story, spinning the story in a specific direction that they obviously wanted the public to believe. You can [watch it here](#) ([let us know](#) if this video disappears):

<https://abc.com/shows/2020/episode-guide/2022-10/28-red-handed>

Kathy Hall, who was a close friend of Linda, had been interviewed by ABC during the filming of this show, but then ABC decided to exclude her testimony after her house burned down, the day before Rebecca O'Donnell, who was being held as the suspect in Senator Smith's murder, allegedly pleaded guilty to her murder.

So go watch what the corporate media is reporting about Senator Linda Collin-Smith's murder on ABC first, then come back to this article, where I will tell the public the "other side" of this story, as reported by her good friend, Kathy Hall, one of the last people to communicate with the Arkansas Senator just before she was killed.



Linda Collins-Smith, Senator Tom Cotton, Kathy Hall in Washington D.C. in February of 2019.

I recently had several conversations with Kathy Hall to get an update on her story since we [interviewed her in 2019](#).

In that interview in 2019, Kathy Hall related how her daughter was killed in a hit-and-run drive-by, and how she and her husband, a disabled military veteran who served for 26 years, immediately filed to take custody of their daughter's daughter, their granddaughter.

However, they never got to even present their case to the court in Arkansas to take custody of their granddaughter, and then found out through social media posts that the foster family she was placed with following her daughter's death had already adopted her.

Their granddaughter was placed with a Mormon family. The adoptive grandparents have posted many photos of Brooklyn publicly – available for everyone to see – on Facebook.



Alan K. Manning

Nov 26, 2022 · 🌐



Today, we attended our granddaughter, Brooklyn's, baptism here in Bentonville, Arkansas.



Add friend

Message



Home



Watch



Marketplace



Dating



Notifications



Menu



The Mormon adoptive parents originally moved Brooklyn out of Arkansas to Wisconsin, before returning to Arkansas. They have refused to allow Brooklyn to have any contact with her biological family, including letters sent to her.



## Mormon Child Trafficking

## Arizona - Arkansas Child Trafficking Connection?



Why am I pointing out the religious affiliation of the family who adopted the Halls' granddaughter?

I have nothing against Mormons. I know there are many fine people in the Mormon religion. I have done business with many of them, and some of them have worked for me for years, and are very fine people.

I mention the Mormon connection in this story because in 2019, a Mormon politician in Phoenix was arrested and indicted on federal charges of child trafficking in three different states: Arizona, Arkansas, and Utah.

He is currently serving time in prison for selling babies from the Marshall Islands.

***Ex-Maricopa County Assessor Paul Petersen sentenced to 5 more years behind bars***

*A former Phoenix politician already in prison on a six-year sentence for operating an illegal adoption scheme involving women from the Marshall Islands was ordered to serve*

*another five years behind bars for defrauding Arizona's Medicaid system in a scam to get taxpayer-funded health coverage for the birth mothers, even though he knew they didn't live in the state.*

*Paul Petersen, a Republican who was Maricopa County's elected assessor for six years and worked as an adoption attorney, on Friday received the second of three sentences stemming from the adoption scheme. His five-year Arizona punishment is to be served after he completes his six-year federal sentence for conspiring to smuggle people in Arkansas.*

*Petersen was dressed in an orange prison suit in the Phoenix courtroom where he offered apologies and cried as he described hurting his clients, former co-workers and his own family through his practices. "I have no one to blame but myself."*

*Authorities have said Petersen illegally paid women from the Pacific island nation to give up their babies in at least **70 adoption cases in Arizona, Arkansas and Utah**. Citizens of the Marshall Islands have been prohibited from traveling to the United States for adoption purposes since 2003.*

*He was sentenced in Arizona for submitting false applications to the state's Medicaid system so the pregnant Marshall Islands women could receive health coverage and for providing an affidavit to a court that contained false information about expenses paid to a birth mother.*

***Petersen is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and earlier in his life completed a proselytizing mission in the Marshall Islands, a collection of atolls and islands in the eastern Pacific,***

*where he became fluent in the Marshallese language.*

*Petersen was arrested in 2019. After the allegations of adoption fraud emerged, Petersen kept working as the assessor for the most populous Arizona county for nearly three months amid heavy pressure to resign — and he did so in January 2020. He was responsible for determining property values in the county that includes Phoenix.*

*Petersen has said he helped people with **hundreds of legal adoptions** after he discovered a niche locating homes for vulnerable children from the Marshall Islands and helping needy mothers who wanted a more stable family life for their children. ([Full article](#). Emphasis mine.)*

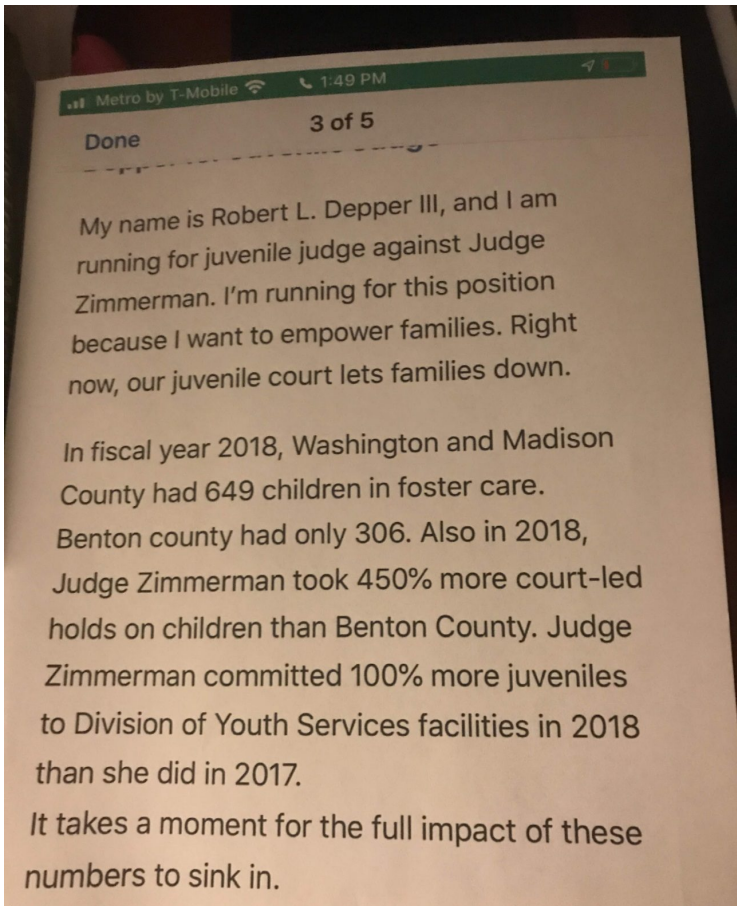


Arkansas Judge Stacey Zimmerman. [Image Source](#).

The judge in Arkansas that allegedly approved all of Paul Petersen's illegal adoptions is Judge Stacey Zimmerman, the same judge in the Halls' case, who refused to allow the Halls to take custody of their own granddaughter, and instead

allowed a Mormon family to adopt her.

Judge Zimmerman still sits on the bench in Arizona, although she has had challengers to her position.



Linda Collins-Smith was investigating the adoption of the Halls' granddaughter to the Mormon family, and was in almost daily communication with Kathy Hall.

She knew there was corruption in the Child Welfare system, and of course the Paul Petersen case proved it. Linda was apparently investigating Judge Zimmerman on other cases as well, some even worse than the Halls' case.



Kathy Hall with Senator Linda Collins-Smith. Photo supplied by Kathy Hall.

Here is one of the last text messages she sent to Kathy Hall:

You should let them. Who is it? I actually talked to a lawyer in NWA yesterday about this. The judge is allegedly procuring babies for people. Of course, no paper trail or any names that the person knew of. But there's a story here way beyond yours.



## Issues with the ABC Documentary



Senator Linda Collins-Smith with her friend Rebecca O'Donnell, the women the corporate media wants you to believe murdered Linda.

Not only was Linda Collins-Smith investigating judges who may have been helping Paul Petersen and others illegally traffick children through adoptions, she had also just gone through a messy divorce from her husband, who was an Arkansas Judge who was removed from the bench for watching pornography on his laptop while working.

The [ABC documentary](#) admits that Linda had received death threats from her former husband, and feared him. One of her friends, Rebecca O'Donnell, had helped her install security cameras in her home.

In the ABC documentary, they show a video clip that allegedly was recorded on the day Linda was murdered in her kitchen, and then dragged to a location outside the house where she was wrapped up in a tarp.

That video clip shows Rebecca O'Donnell (Becky) putting a security camera and a large knife into a bag, but it does not show Becky actually stabbing Linda, nor is she covered in blood. Also, if she is taking away the video camera after the murder, then where is the video footage of the actual murder?

There were other details conveniently left out of the documentary, including the interviews ABC did with Kathy Hall.

The documentary states that Linda Collins-Smith returned from a trip to Washington D.C., and then went missing before her body was discovered.

However, Linda Collins-Smith did not fly back to Arkansas from that trip in Washington D.C., where she also met with Kathy Hall.



She first flew to Arizona, and while she was there she met with Arizona lawmakers, presumably to discuss the Paul Petersen case and the child trafficking industry he was running in Arizona, Arkansas, and Utah.

She was in contact with Kathy Hall during that time, and her last text to Kathy was just after she arrived back in Arkansas.

I wonder why ABC did not want to report this?

12:54 ↗



**Security Fire Department**

5d · 🌐



Late yesterday afternoon Security Fire, along with South group response was dispatched for a structure fire. Upon arrival crews found heavy flames coming from the garage and house. A fast attack was initiated and crews were able to extinguish the fire. Unfortunately the home suffered serious damage and 3 pets were killed no other injuries were reported. Every fire we respond to in our district, or anywhere in the south group response area(Hanover, Stratmoor Hills, and Fountain) presents a unique challenge fire fire crews, thanks to quality training and communication we are always able to get things under control in a safe and smooth way. Great work by all!



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63

On the day before Rebecca O'Donnell reportedly confessed to murdering Linda Collins-Smith, the Halls' house burned down, allegedly due to a "gas leak." Kathy and Jeff escaped unharmed, but they lost their two dogs and cat in the fire.

ABC reportedly decided not to include Kathy's testimony in their documentary, because it was "too dangerous" for her after their house burned down.

## Halls' Second Granddaughter Kidnapped



Kathy Hall and Jeffrey Hall with their granddaughter Hailey. Photos supplied by Halls.

Sadly, life for the Halls has not become easier since they lost both their daughter and their granddaughter 6 years ago.

In 2021, they moved into a new house, and they welcomed a new granddaughter into their life, born to their son. Their son named her "Hailey", after his sister who had been killed 5 years earlier.

The mother of their granddaughter allegedly had drug issues,

and their son was not in a position to care for his daughter alone, so Kathy and Jeff stepped forward to start caring for their granddaughter.

Unlike the family who was awarded custody of their first granddaughter and did not allow their family to have any communication with her, the Halls tried to work with the mother of their grandchild, and allowed her to visit at times, although she did not live in their home.

While this troubled, young mother was staying nearby in a Detox center, she allegedly used the Halls' address as her "residence" when filling out paperwork, even though she was not actually living there.

This was all the Child Welfare family police needed to seize their granddaughter and put her into foster care.

Even though they were quickly able to determine that the birth mother was not, in fact, living in their home, they allegedly accused Kathy of suffering from trauma from the death of her daughter 5 years earlier, and demanded that she get counseling, from a counselor of their choice, before they allowed the baby to come back home.

The Halls now live in Colorado, and when the child police (more accurate term than a "social worker") took their granddaughter, a "social worker" from Fayetteville, Arkansas, was transferred to Colorado just to work on their case.

They also stated that Jeffrey Hall, a 26-year veteran, was unfit to be a parent because he had been diagnosed with PTSD after serving in Iraq years earlier. The VA had him on several psych drugs, but he got rid of them all and started

using medical cannabis instead, and his health has been much better since. Cannabis is legal in Colorado, even for recreational use.

Kathy refused their order to receive counseling, knowing that they would use it as an excuse to come up with some kind of diagnosis to justify keeping their granddaughter.

They did eventually get their granddaughter back home, where she is now, after 9 months in foster care with strangers.

This 3-year-old child who is dearly loved by her grandparents was severely traumatized, and continues to suffer emotional stress today.

The Halls need a good civil rights attorney to sue Colorado for kidnapping their granddaughter. Please contact us if you can recommend one.

The way they treated a disabled 26-year veteran is a tragedy, and a clear violation of so many laws, including ADA laws, not to mention all the other abuses this family has suffered through.

**We Don't Need Fictional Movies About "Child Trafficking" Outside the U.S. – We Need to Stop Child Trafficking in the U.S. Through Foster Care and Adoption!**



### [Sound of Freedom: A Movie About Child Trafficking Produced by Child Traffickers?](#)

So while Linda Collins-Smith has now been murdered to silence her and stop her work of investigating child trafficking by judges and politicians involved in the Child Welfare system here in the U.S., and while good parents and grandparents like Kathy and Jeff Hall become targets and have their children kidnapped by the child police in Child Welfare every single day in this country, millions of people are being fooled into believing that watching a [fictional movie](#) about child trafficking outside the U.S. on the Big Screen will somehow solve this problem.

And when I published articles revealing how this movie does nothing to identify who the child traffickers are, or how to stop it, I have been vehemently attacked and criticized by this new cult following from this movie, with people saying things like: *“If you are attacking this movie then you must be supporting child trafficking,”* or *“What have YOU done to address this issue?”*, or *“Why don’t you make your own movie if you don’t*

*like this one,” etc.*

How sad. I have been covering this issue for over a decade now, naming names and exposing corruption, as in this story with the Hall family.

But NOBODY, including most in the Alternative Media, wants to touch this topic, because the only way we are going to stop child trafficking in this country is to STOP TAKING OTHER PEOPLE’S CHILDREN through foster care and buying them from foreign countries through adoption.

And anyone who dares to expose this corrupt child trafficking business, such as Linda Collins-Smith and the late [Georgia Senator Nancy Schaefer](#), will pay a high price for doing so, including possibly losing their life.

I have been threatened for publishing these kinds of stories for years now, from judges, DAs, and large law firms, demanding that I remove certain stories like this one that names names and exposes the corrupt people in power that allow this to happen.

And just for the record, I am NOT suicidal ([been there done that](#)), and I do not currently have any life-threatening disease that I am aware of.

I will also not give in to those of you attacking and threatening me, and will not take down any of these articles, nor stop publishing them, as long as God keeps me on this earth as a light shining into the darkness.

I will continue to take a stand for these parents and grandparents, and their children, who have suffered through REAL human trafficking and had their lives destroyed.

How about you?

*Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops. (Luke 12:2-3)*